

BAKEWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NORTH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1904,
BY
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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

ALFRED HAWES, CLERK.

CATCLIFF, BAKEWELL,
January 5th, 1905.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BAKEWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MY LORD DUKE AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to offer for your consideration my Annual Report for 1904, this being the thirty-second year with which I have had to deal.

The growth which has taken place during those years has reached a magnitude which could never have been contemplated at the beginning of that time.

The most noteworthy advance in our equipment during the year has been in the adoption of Bye-laws which will enable us to exercise control over the erection of all new buildings; and nothing has shown the necessity for this more than the feverish haste which some persons exhibited in getting the foundations of new houses in before the Bye-laws came into force, so that they might, by that means, be evaded.

I am enabled to compile this Report from information gathered from various sources, from regular systematic inspection of my District, and from inspections I have made into particular outbreaks of infectious or epidemic disease, or conditions dangerous to health which have been brought to my notice in various ways. I have, as occasion seemed desirable, had house-to-house inspections made.

In addition to what may be described as the "outdoor" work of a Medical Officer of Health, I have had a very considerable amount of clerical work to deal with, including Monthly and other Reports to your Council, a Monthly Report to the Local Government Board on the prevalence of Small-pox in my District, Special Reports to the same Body on the occurrence of dangerous epidemic disease, as well as Reports stating the grounds upon which I have advised School closure where such was deemed necessary. I am also asked for a weekly return by the County Council of the incidence of infectious or epidemic disease in my District. In addition

to this official correspondence, I have dealt with an ever increasing amount of other correspondence.

As foreshadowed in my Annual Report for 1903, I am enabled to congratulate your Authority upon having divided the offices of Sanitary Inspector and Road Surveyor, and having appointed an additional Sanitary Inspector. The necessity for this step you as readily grasped as you set about making the desirable alteration. The time of the Sanitary Inspector has been fully occupied by the duties pertaining to that office, and this makes it the more difficult to comprehend how the sanitary work of the district could have been carried out at all under the régime which made the Sanitary Inspector the Road Surveyor as well.

All our requirements were carried out without it being needful to apply for the assistance of a Court of Law.

Among Acts coming into force on January 1st, 1905, having interest to you as being entrusted with the administration of Acts of Parliament having for their object the maintenance of the public health, are none which affect our position as an inland Rural District.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERS OF THE DISTRICT.

The physical features of the District present two varieties, whose differences are very marked. One a more mountainous and tree-clad area, with rivers in which neither the rise nor fall are great; the other, a region with a more wooded aspect, in which are found rivers where there is a great difference between high and low water-mark. The geological formation of the first or western portion is mountain limestone, with outcrops of toadstone; the latter consists of Yoredale grit and shales with, here and there along its eastern boundary, millstone grit.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

As I have said in previous Reports, the house accommodation for the working classes in my District is, taking it altogether, of a fairly satisfactory character. That houses of this description built many years ago, when sanitary requirements as they are understood to-day were undreamt of, are not only not satisfactory but are also not readily made so, goes without saying; but to have to say under this heading

that dwellings which have been recently erected for the housing of the working classes in the District are of a character far worse than these is, with all the advantages of our present state of civilisation, not only a reflection upon the person responsible for the erection of such property, but also, and to an even greater extent, upon the system which has permitted it. I hope now that Building Bye-laws are in force in the District that difficulties of this kind will cease to give us trouble.

We are remedying the defects found in the older class of houses as they are discovered, and as far as is possible; but in some instances to call for a very complete reorganisation would mean that the owners would not consider the outlay worth while, and as a result the houses would be closed, and in this way the problem of the housing of the working classes would be accentuated.

In houses which already exist our chief attention is directed to improving their:—

- (a) House drainage connections;
- (b) Closet accommodation;
- (c) Ventilation of rooms, especially bedrooms;
- (d) Places for storing food; and
- (e) Provision for keeping the house walls, and ground immediately in connection with them, as free from damp as possible.

Sufficiency of open space about houses.—As many of the villages were erected at a time when land was of not so much value as now, the provision of open space about houses is, on the whole, amply provided for. It is only in villages built in a more or less confined locality, as in a valley, that the open space about them is curtailed. In the erection of new houses this is a point to which attention must be directed when considering plans.

Cleanliness of surroundings.—This largely depends upon the individual characteristics of the householder. In the majority of townships the cleanliness of the surroundings is satisfactory, but ignorance of, and indifference to, the elementary laws of sanitation are the chief factors which we have to contend against, and this will continue to be so until a more enlightened national policy makes the teaching of personal and domestic hygiene a compulsory subject in the curriculum laid down for elementary education as taught in our elementary public schools.

In September, 1904, a deputation of medical men waited upon the Minister for Education to beg of him, “in view of the appalling and increasing degeneration among the people, to take steps to have the rudimentary laws of health taught in the public schools.” (*Times* report.) The Minister expressed himself in entire sympathy with the objects the deputation had in view, but was unable to hold out any hope of immediate help; and why?—because his department does not possess teachers who themselves know what the deputation wished to have taught! This in a country which above all others prides itself upon its sanitary equipment, and in which sanitary science may be said to have been originated.

Supervision over erection of new houses.—It is impossible for me to express the satisfaction I feel now that I am in a position to report, under this heading, the fact that your Council has adopted Bye-laws which will enable us to exercise control over the erection of new buildings. This is a provision I have long urged upon you, and I am confident everyone must admit their necessity as extended experience of them makes their usefulness more apparent. If the adoption of these Bye-laws represented the only useful sanitary reform carried out by you during the year (I by no means suggest that it is so) you would be fully entitled to contemplate your year’s work with satisfaction.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Four of the thirty-six townships in my District have been provided with systems of sewerage by your Council. These are, in order in which they were carried out:—

- (i.) Stoney Middleton, and a portion of Eyam;
- (ii.) Little Longstone;
- (iii.) Hathersage; and
- (iv.) Tideswell.

In addition to these schemes the inhabitants of Chelmorton have carried out a scheme, on their own responsibility, for that village; but it is one which has not received your approval, and which I have previously reported upon as being inadequate.

It must be borne in mind that many of the remaining thirty-one townships are of small dimensions, and for such a complete system of drainage is out of the question, without grouping several together for this purpose; but in some of

the larger townships a scheme of sewerage is needed, and as requiring such attention I will mention:—

Eyam, with a population estimated June 6, 1904, of	1110 ;
Bradwell, ,, ,, ,, ,,	1096 ;
Calver, ,, ,, ,, ,,	381 ;
Longstone Great, ,, ,, ,,	460 ;

all of which, with the exception of Longstone Great, showing an increase of population at the Census 1901 as compared with that of 1891.

The most urgent of all these is Eyam, and the urgency of the case is aggravated by the fact that the sewage of Eyam finds its way at present to a point where it becomes a nuisance and a danger to the inhabitants of Stoney Middleton, a township which several years ago went to the expense of carrying out a sewerage disposal scheme for the purpose of improving the town, and it does appear inevitable that, under the circumstances, they have the nuisance they went to a considerable expense to remove again brought into their midst from a neighbouring township. No one has any more justification for injuring his neighbour by negligence of sanitation, or by the means he takes to protect himself from the evils he has created, than he has in appropriating his neighbour's goods or trespassing on his neighbour's premises. To carry this contention further, it may be pointed out that in some townships in my District domestic arrangements are provided by a few, necessitating a scouring away with water where no sewerage works are in existence. This arrangement injures the public weal in many ways, one of the chief being the turning of excrementitious matter into village drains quite unsuited for its reception, and here it becomes a serious danger to the locality generally. "In rural and semi-rural districts, the individual ought no more to ask others to keep him clean than he asks others to feed or clothe him." (*Rural Hygiene*. Poore. 3rd edit., p. 213.)

Details of existing Sewerage Schemes.—These, in the order in which they came into operation, are:—

STONEY MIDDLETON.—Population, estimated to middle of 1904, is 496. These works were opened in January, 1899. The sewage is treated with alumino-ferric; after time has been allowed for precipitation by this agent, the effluent is allowed to pass on over land, and eventually into the River Derwent. The plant continues to work satisfactorily.

LONGSTONE LITTLE.—The population, estimated to the middle of 1904, is 145. Here the effluent is distributed over land after settlement in tanks. These works were opened in October, 1900. This scheme has made a distinct improvement in both the appearance and attractiveness of the village.

HATHERSAGE.—The estimated population in this town is 1111. The treatment of the sewage at Hathersage sewage works, which were opened in April, 1902, is similar to that at Stoney Middleton (*vide supra*), the effluent eventually entering the River Derwent after treatment on land.

TIDESWELL.—The population of Tideswell, estimated to the middle of 1904, is 1938. These sewage works came into operation in August, 1902. The sewage is precipitated by means of alumino-ferric, and, as suitable land was not available, coke filters have been added, after filtering through which the effluent passes down the brook course, eventually finding its way into the River Wye.

In my last Annual Report I had to direct your attention to the unsatisfactory working of these sewerage works. Since then the filter beds have been reconstructed, and they are working more satisfactorily. As these works are on the side of the main road from Millers Dale Station, the railway station for Tideswell and neighbourhood, and the town of Tideswell, it would be well if some suitable trees could be planted to screen them off from the road.

Condition of sewers and house drains.—With few exceptions beyond the townships I have detailed as having been provided with sewerage schemes, the sewers, where such exist, as well as the house drains, consist of flat-bottomed rubble-walled channels, or foul open ditches. When in any of these townships it becomes necessary to put in any length of drain or sewer, I have this composed of sanitary pipes, laid in such a manner as to become, as far as possible, a useful part of any scheme which may be undertaken at any subsequent period.

Excrement disposal; system in vogue; defects, if any.—Where privy-middens or other form of dry-closet exist the contents are disposed of by being distributed on to land or gardens. It is often a difficult matter to find a place on which to deposit such material, and the difficulty increases as time goes on.

Removal and disposal of house refuse.—Urban powers to enable the question of scavenging to be taken up under the control of your Council have been given by the Local Government Board for:—

Bradwell;
Calver;
Hathersage; and
Eyam.

In the first three of these places public scavenging has been more or less successfully undertaken; but it would appear that at present Eyam has not taken full advantage of what would be, if properly carried out, for the well-being of the township.

With reference to this question for the other portions of my District, I can only repeat that it would be well if similar powers could be obtained for all the other townships, singly for the larger ones, and in groups of villages where these are of small size. Especially are such powers needed for:—

Chelmorton;
Curbar;
Edensor;
Eyam Woodlands;
Froggatt;
Hucklow Great;
Hucklow Little;
Litton and Cressbrook;
Longstone Great;
Longstone Little;
Stoney Middleton;
Tideswell; and
Taddington and Priestcliff.

If your Council adopt the above, my oft-repeated suggestion, it would be advisable for each house to be provided with a galvanised-iron covered bin, to remain the property of your Council, and to hold not more than a week's supply. Four great advantages would then accrue:—

- (i.) Uniformity of type of receptacle;
- (ii.) Frequent emptying;
- (iii.) The surroundings would be kept clean, tidy, and more healthful; and
- (iv.) Facility in removing refuse.

The amount of house refuse increases from year to year, and this increase is greater than can be accounted for by the building of new houses. It is in the main due to a want of

care on the part of householders in discriminating between what refuse should go into the ashpit, and what may be properly destroyed by themselves individually. If these persons could be convinced that it is to their advantage, individually and collectively, to burn house refuse in the domestic fire at home, much would be done to lessen the amount to be disposed of at considerable expense in the way of cartage and destruction.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

The Stoke Flat water scheme was completed and handed over to your Council early in the year 1903. This scheme is intended to supply the following townships in my district:—

Calver;
Eyam (a portion);
Froggatt;
Hassop;
Longstone Great;
Longstone Little;
Rowland; and
Stoney Middleton.

The Stoke Flat supply consists of an upland water of good quality. Two service reservoirs have been made, the one near Rowland, the other at Headstones Edge, near Little Longstone, from one or other of which four of the above-named places are supplied by gravitation. In the early life of the works numerous complaints were made of inadequate and irregular supply, but during the latter part of the year the complaints became fewer, and by the end of 1904 the undertaking appeared to be working satisfactorily. The number of the houses in the localities served by this scheme not connected with the mains becomes fewer as time goes on.

I need not enter into a detailed account of the water supply for each township in my District, as I have done this in previous Annual Reports. (*q.v.*)

With reference to the water supply of Litton, I have to say that the Litton Parish Council have made a formal complaint to the County Council to the effect that the Bakewell Rural District Council have failed in their duty. As a result of this complaint the County Council have, in their turn, brought the subject to the notice of the Local Government Board, and it is very probable that before long

matters will have been brought to an issue. I hope this may lead to an amicable settlement of a troublesome question.

Several small water schemes, Eyam, Eyam Woodlands, etc., are at the present time engaging the attention of the Sanitary Committee of your Council.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

(i.) *Common Lodging-houses*.—The regulation of Common Lodging-houses is dealt with by the Public Health Act, 1875, and the Public Health's Act (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Since the date of my last Annual Report another common lodging-house, the one at Hathersage, has ceased to exist as such, and now only two remain in my District, both of which are at Stoney Middleton.

These places have been regularly and frequently inspected, and have been made to conform to the Bye-laws.

These houses were, when built, not intended for the purposes to which they are now put. At one of these places, that owned by Mr. Henry Goddard, a drainage system and other structural alterations were asked for and provided.

The cubic space allowed per head by the Bye-laws which regulate common lodging-houses is left to the discretion of your officers, and they ask for a minimum space of three hundred cubic feet in each bedroom. The Bye-laws retain the power to modify this allowance from time to time if it is considered advisable. This was considered a wiser course to pursue than laying down a specified space, bearing in mind the fact that the lodging-houses were not built for such, and are only adapted to this use from buildings erected for other purposes.

The Bye-laws regulating common lodging-houses received the consent of the Local Government Board on the seventh day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

The Sanitary Inspector reports to me after the first week in April and October in each year that these places have been properly lime-washed in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1875.

(ii.) *Slaughter-houses*.—In all my Annual Reports I have dealt with the question of slaughter-houses, and done my best to bring their condition to the notice of your Council, as well as to point out the existing deficiencies, with the object of your having better places provided for the killing and dressing of such an important portion of our food.

When we know such places are used as slaughter-houses they are regularly inspected.

I hoped with some degree of confidence that after your Council were made aware of the condition of some of the slaughter-houses in my District, which were detailed in my Annual Report for 1903, something might have been done to remedy such a condition of things as at present exists. I pointed out to your Authority that you could doubtless obtain Urban powers to enable you to deal with these places, and I am no little surprised the County Council should allow such an important question to escape their attention. It is an alarming fact that in country districts persons can kill animals for the food of man, as they like, where they like, when they like, and, still worse, what they like, and sell it for human consumption. So easy is it to kill for human food what they like, that I have it on the authority of a veterinary surgeon of wide experience, in another county altogether, that the work of the veterinary surgeon is becoming smaller and smaller year by year, because some persons, when they find their animals ill, prefer to kill for the market, rather than try to effect a cure. This, to say the least, is not a very appetising state of things, but is one that calls for urgent attention.

I would invite the members of your Council to read a description of one or two slaughter-houses in my District which were detailed in my Annual Report for 1903, page 25.

As a meat-consuming nation, my contention is that all animal food ought to be above suspicion, and this can only be done by providing public slaughter-houses for localities, where the meat could be inspected by competent inspectors. In country districts the only person who can interfere at present is the village constable, whose knowledge of the difference between sound and unsound meat may be, and probably is, confined to the exercise of his organs of smell.

(iii.) *Bakehouses*.—All the bakehouses in my district are “retail bakehouses”—*i.e.*, bakehouses where no mechanical

power is used, and the bread, biscuits, or confectionery baked in which are sold not wholesale, but by retail, in some shop or place occupied with the bakehouse.

There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

The Sanitary Inspector is fully aware of the requirements, and he has during the past year reported to me periodically upon the conditions he has found.

The bakehouses in my District have always been found clean, and they have conformed to the regulations.

(iv.) *Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.*—The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Amending Order of 1886 leave all details of administration to the Local Authority, with the result to be anticipated.

(v.) *Factories and Workshops.*—There were, at the close of the year 1904, thirty-three factories and seventy-one workshops, including bakehouses, in the Northern Division of the Bakewell Rural District.

Many of the workshops are only small places, where only one or two persons are employed; and in some of the factories mechanical power is only used very occasionally.

Exclusive of my own inspections, amounting to twenty-seven, the Sanitary Inspector has made seventy inspections of workshops other than bakehouses, and sixty inspections of these latter places. Six written notices to remedy defects in workshops have been served, and in each case complied with; five of these were for want of cleanliness and one for defective ventilation.

A list of outworkers has been kept: there are eighty-two persons so employed. The houses where such work has been carried on have been visited, and a lookout has been kept for infectious disease occurring in persons living in them.

No industries in which what is known as the “sweating system” prevails are carried on in the District, nor are there any underground bakehouses in the District.

(vi.) *Offensive Trades.*—There are no offensive trades now carried on in the District.

NUISANCES.

Proceedings for their abatement.—Whenever a nuisance has come under observation, notice has been served upon the person responsible, with a detailed account of the nuisance, the work necessary to be done to abate it, giving a specified time within which it must be completed. If this notice is ignored, after the specified time, a final notice is served. No further procedure has been called for during the year under review.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Methods of dealing with infectious disease.—On receiving notification of a case of infectious disease, the place is visited with the least possible delay. Advice is given as to the best means of isolation, disinfectants are supplied and their use explained, and printed directions suitable to the case given to those in charge of the patient as to the proper means of management, so as to prevent, as far as possible, the spread of the infection.

The Managers of Day and Sunday Schools receive printed notices giving them warning of infection when it exists among children attending their schools, and advising them to exclude all children from such houses for a certain specified time.

At the time of the first visit an enquiry form of particulars is filled up by either myself or the Inspector. At the termination of the limit the result is noted, and the date of disinfection chronicled.

Notification.—The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, was adopted February 27th, 1903. At present notification has not been extended to diseases other than those mentioned in that Act.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation and its Efficiency.—The Haddon Joint Hospital Board, whose area includes my district, have made arrangements with the Trustees of the Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale, for the provision of six beds for infectious disease. This number of beds is absolutely inadequate for the needs of my district, and provision should be made for the treatment of at least two different forms of infectious disease at the same time.

Disinfection.—Every house where infectious illness has existed, has, at the termination of the illness, been disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfection is by means of Formalin, generated by an Equifex Spray Producer, followed by a thorough washing of the rooms, furniture, etc., with a solution of carbolic acid.

As this method of disinfection has been criticised by some, on the ground of expense, and compared to sulphur fumigation to its discredit, because of the cheapness of the latter, I am constrained to ask your attention to the following quotation out of an article on disinfection from the pen of a well-known Medical Officer of Health, who is regarded as an authority on the subject:—

“Disinfection of rooms, etc.—The common method of
 “aerial disinfection by means of sulphur is very inade-
 “quate. Whatever efficiency it appears to have is doubt-
 “less due to the thorough and prolonged influx of fresh
 “air which follows its use. The object of disinfection is
 “to kill the germs adhering to the walls and floors,
 “accumulating in the dust deposited on ledges, cornices,
 “and furniture, and lodging in the folds of woollen
 “fabrics, and the stuffing of bedding, chairs, etc., just
 “the places where they are least accessible to gaseous
 “agents. In the anhydrous state it is inert, acting as
 “a germicide only in the presence of moisture; fumiga-
 “tions of rooms are therefore useless unless the walls
 “and everything to be disinfected be first sprayed or
 “wetted throughout, when its bleaching action on all
 “vegetable colours would be resented.”

In Germany it has been thoroughly discredited.

As at present equipped we are quite unable to satisfactorily disinfect clothes and bedding, and I again urge the necessity of providing a steam disinfector.

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION.

A systematic inspection of the district has been made from time to time, and advice has been given in various ways on sanitary requirements. The Sanitary Inspector has frequently accompanied me on these rounds, and I know that he has made one thousand one hundred and forty-eight inspections. The whole of the officer's time is now devoted to the work, and immediate attention can, as a rule, be given to any important case.

INQUESTS.

The Coroner held enquiries as to the cause of death on eleven occasions. Eight of these had reference to the deaths of males, and three to those of females.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Three deaths were returned to me as being uncertified, all these being in infants under 18 months of age. They were distributed as follows:—Stoney Middleton, one; Litton, one; and Hathersage, one.

EXTENT, DISTRIBUTION, AND CAUSES OF DISEASE,
ESPECIALLY OF EPIDEMIC AND NOTIFIABLE
DISEASE.

During the year under review I received 51 certificates of notification of infectious illness. In one instance the case was notified by two separate medical practitioners, so that there were actually fifty cases altogether.

Scarlet Fever.—The total number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was thirty-two. They were distributed throughout the year. No death was returned to me as due to this disease.

On the receipt of the certificate of notification, or sometimes before, the cases were visited. Advice was given as to the management of the case so as to prevent the spread of the infection, printed instructions given to the person in charge of the case, and disinfectants were supplied.

The cases were distributed as follows:—

Bradwell	1
Chatsworth	2
Edensor	2
Eyam	2
Foolow	1
Hassop	1
Hathersage	11
Litton	3
Longstone Great	1
Longstone Little	1
Pilsley	1
Taddington	5
Tideswell	1

Total cases..... 32

Every house where a case of Scarlet Fever occurred was kept under strict observation until disinfection had been carried out.

The case that occurred at Bradwell on the last day of the year was, upon investigation, believed to have been infected by contact with a neighbouring city.

Two cases occurred at The Gardens, Chatsworth, the first one in October, the notification certificate for which bearing date October 25th, was sent to the Isolation Hospital provided by the Haddon Joint Hospital Board. This child was returned home on December 10th. having been in the hospital six weeks and five days. Shortly thereafter another child in the same family developed Scarlet Fever, and in dealing with this case in my Monthly Report to your Council the following occurs:—

“ . . . In the course of our investigations into this case, we were told that the father or mother went to the hospital each week to bring away the underclothing of the patient to be washed, and that this washing was regularly done at home. This is a truly remarkable state of affairs, and in my experience unique. If we are correctly informed, it is a matter to which the attention of the Haddon Joint Hospital Board ought at once to be directed. An isolation hospital without a laundry is an absolute farce.”

The source of infection could not be detected in the first case, unless it might be by coming into contact with children from a neighbouring school.

Two cases occurred at Edensor in October. The only probable source of infection in these cases was mixing with children from another village who attended a school where Scarlet Fever had long been prevalent.

Two cases were notified from Eyam. The first was believed to have received the infection from a person who came on a visit from a neighbouring locality. In the second case no definite source of infection could be traced.

One case occurred at Foolow, and our investigations lead us to form the opinion that the infection had been conveyed by a person from a district known to be an infected area.

One case occurred at the inn at Hassop in the month of September. Here there was no definite source of infection,

but constant communication with several infected localities. The child was removed to a private house for isolation.

Eleven cases occurred at Hathersage in the last six months of the year. The first case was an adult male whose employment took him among a number of persons. He was successfully isolated, and no fresh case arose from his.

The next case was that of a child visitor who came from Manchester to an isolated house about a mile and a half from the town, and who developed symptoms of her illness the day of her arrival. This outbreak was also limited to this one case.

The remaining cases were spread over the last four months of the year, and with two exceptions, in which the source of illness was not definitely made out, the opinion was formed that contact with a large business centre was the source. Each was independent of the other.

Three cases occurred at Litton (The Mills). The source of infection in the first case was contracted outside the district altogether, the person, an adult, being ill on her arrival. The other two cases occurred in the same house.

One case occurred at Great Longstone. The father of the child thought it probable he might have introduced the infection from without.

One case occurred at Little Longstone (Monsal Dale). The child came from Manchester, and developed his illness on the evening of the following day.

The case which occurred at Pilsley was believed to have been contracted by contact with a large day-party of excursionists who visited the village.

Five cases occurred at Taddington. Two in the month of January contracted the illness at Derby. Two others in the month of April were believed to have been infected by wearing clothes sent from a house in which Scarlet Fever had occurred previously. The fifth case at Taddington had an indefinite origin.

One case occurred at Tideswell. The source of infection was not traceable.

Diphtheria.—Five cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Two of these occurred at Longstone Little, in the same household, the infection being introduced by a visit from a relative who was recovering from a mild undetected attack. These two cases were verified by a bacteriological examination.

The case that occurred at Taddington was one which had had contact with an infected family in a distant town.

Two cases occurred at Tideswell. The first case occurred in April, and had terminated fatally before the notification reached me.

The second case at Tideswell occurred in November. The illness was not of a very definite character, and the diagnosis was not confirmed bacteriologically. The sanitary conditions of the house were perfect.

Typhoid Fever.—Eight cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during this year, six of them occurring in a block of cottages at Chelmorton Ditch, and one each at Eyam and Tideswell.

CHELMORTON.—All these cases occurred in a block of recently-erected property at Chelmorton Ditch. Your Authority may remember that in my Annual Report for 1902 (page 8) I referred to this block of property, then in course of erection, as being of a most unsatisfactory character, and which would probably require condemning when complete and inhabited. I quoted this as an argument in favour of your having Building Bye-laws, and it is largely as a result of the lamentable cases which occurred here, that such Bye-laws have at last come into existence, the County Council, having noticed the observations above referred to, pressing for the adoption of Building Bye-laws by your Council. The cases were undoubtedly due to the most insanitary conditions of the houses and their surroundings. The disease broke out in these cottages on three separate and distinct occasions. Two of the cases terminated fatally—one a child, the other the mother of a family of small children.

I made a careful examination of this property, and reported to your Council. As a result, legal notices were served upon the owner, asking him to make certain specified alterations to the block of six houses, and pointing out that the block of four was not, in the then state, fit for human habitation.

After an extension of the time given, the work asked to be done at the six houses was carried out.

The condition of the block of four houses has been improved.

The case notified to me from Eyam occurred in the month of July. The patient became ill a day or two after she returned home from a visit to the South of England.

The remaining case, which occurred at Tideswell, was notified to me as one of Typhoid Diarrhœa. At our investigation we attributed the illness to a previously unknown-of old drain which passed under the houseplace floor.

Small-pox.—Two cases of Small-pox occurred in the month of September. On the afternoon of September 27 I received a telegram from a medical gentleman to the effect that he had two cases under observation which he was suspicious might be Small-pox, and asking me to see them with him to make sure of his diagnosis. At my visit the same day I at once saw the cases were Small-pox. They occurred in a hut at Padley, in the township of Grindleford Bridge, among workmen employed by the Derwent Valley Water Board.

I opened up telephonic communication with that Board's officials at Birchinlee. They arranged to take the sufferers that night to the Isolation Hospital at Birchinlee, and remove the contacts, fifteen in number, for the purpose of quarantine, to Under Bank Farm, Ashopton, an empty isolated house. This was done early the following morning, and seven of these persons subsequently developed Small-pox. The hut was thoroughly disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector, and on my order all the infected bedding was burnt. Your Council are to be congratulated that my prompt action averted a large and costly Small-pox epidemic.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 5, I was accosted near the Bakewell Union Workhouse by a man who I at once saw was in the pustular stage of Confluent Small-pox. He told me he proposed to seek admission to the Workhouse. He informed me that he had been an inmate of a common lodging-house at Matlock at the same time a woman and child were said to be suffering from Small-pox, and that he had been at a common lodging-house at Stoney Middleton for several nights off and on. I went at once to Stoney Middleton and visited the lodging-house in question. I found that the bed recently occupied by this man was ready, without

a change of bed clothing, for another tenant, and would have been so occupied but for my interference. I had the room closed for the night. Early the following morning the place was thoroughly disinfected by Mr. Hawley; and as soon as I could obtain an order from your Authority, at your next meeting, for the destruction of the bedding, it was burnt.

Here again I think your Authority are to be congratulated upon the promptness with which this case was dealt with, and a serious outbreak among a dangerous class of persons probably averted.

Erysipelas.—Three cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year: one at Pilsley, one at Little Longstone in October, and one at Cressbrook in December. All the cases recovered.

Puerperal Fever.—No case of Puerperal Fever was reported to me during the year.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Of these, Measles and Whooping-cough were prevalent in some parts of the District.

Measles.—In the last three months of the year Measles were very troublesome in some townships, and owing to this form of illness being so prevalent amongst the children attending the Calver Elementary Schools, your Council advised they should be closed from November 22nd until the close of the Christmas vacation.

Measles was responsible for two deaths, these being a child of five years at Calver and one of five and a half at Wardlow.

Whooping - cough.—Whooping - cough was more or less troublesome during the year. Three deaths were returned to me as due to that cause. They all occurred in children under five years of age at Hathersage.

In consequence of the prevalence of Whooping-cough, the Council advised that both the Catholic and Public Elementary Schools at Hathersage should be closed from June 7th until July 4th; at the end of that period I found the illness was still prevalent, and the Council advised they should remain closed for a further period until July 25th.

Phthisis.—During the year under review seven deaths were registered as due to Phthisis. In addition to these, during

the same period, eight deaths were registered as due to other tubercular diseases, representing a total of fifteen deaths as due to tubercular disease, out of a total of 167 deaths from all causes. This is equivalent to a tubercular death-rate of 1.3 per 1000 of the population, estimated to the middle of 1904.

I have in previous reports advised your Council to offer to have rooms occupied by persons suffering from advanced phthisis to be disinfected, but at present my recommendation has remained unheeded.

Diarrhœa.—The past year was as remarkable as the two preceding ones for the small number of cases of diarrhœa which occurred in the district. Not one death from that cause was registered.

The cases that did occur were in August and September.

At the request of the Local Government Board I have for several years asked your authority to allow the registrars to furnish me with the births in each township, so that Table II. could be complete. On the ground of expense, and apparently useless piece of information, your Council have not seen your way to grant the request. At most, the cost would only be a few pence each month.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics will be found in the accompanying tables of the Local Government Board for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP S. FENTEM.

